ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

BIG CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH, PICKENS COUNTY, ALA.,

September 22d and 24th, 1877.

Next Session will be held with Carrollton Baptist Church, Pickens County, Ala., commencing on Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in Sept. 1878.

CARROLLTON:
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MINUTES.

The Forty-second Annual Session of the UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION was held with the Big Creek Baptist Church, Pickens county, Ala., commencing on Saturday, September 22d, 1877.

The Introductory Sermon was delivered, according to appointment, by Elder J. A. Mitchell, at 11 o'clock A. M., from text, Acts 4: 13—"They took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."

After a recess of one hour, the delegates assembled in the meeting-house, and the Association was called to order by the Moderator, Elder J. C. Foster, and the session was opened with prayer by Elder W. C. Smith.

Letters from the churches were read by brethren W. G. Robertson and J. T. Hancock, and the names of delegates enrolled.

On motion, the delegates from Providence, Oak Ridge, Pickensville and Beulah churches were received without letters.

The Association was organized by the re-election of Elder J. C. FOSTER, Moderator, and H. B. CHAPPELLE, Clerk.

On motion, opened the door for the reception of unassociated churches: Received a petitionary letter from "Prairie" Church, Greene county, Ala., together with a letter of dismission from the Bigbee Association. The Moderator gave the delegates the right hand of fellowship and invited them to seats. Said church was then assigned to the Third District.

On motion invited visiting brethren to seats, and to take part in our deliberations.

On motion, received correspondence from sister associations:—From the Columbus, Elds. W. H. Robertson and W. C. Smith—no letter or minutes; Tuskaloosa, ——.

The Moderator gave the right hand of fellowship to the messengers present and cordially invited them to seats.

On motion, received an interesting letter from the Carrollton Baptist Sabbath School, remitting $13.85, to be equally divided between home and foreign missions.

On motion, appointed the following committees:

On Preaching—J. R. Goodman, J. P. Gates, C. Richey, J. P. Barnett, and Pastor and Deacons of Big Creek Church.

Correspondence—J. J. Lee, F. H. Ball, J. G. Thornton.

Education—J. H. Curry, Iredell Teer, W. J. Duncan.

Documents—J. H. Curry, W. P. Peden, C. Upchurch.

Nominations—J. H. Stinson, J. M. Smith, J. F. Fason.

Missions—R. A. Massey, W. G. Robertson.

Finance—J. J. Lee, B. E. Whitaker, R. H. Jennings.

Sabbath Schools—M. G. Lofton, J. M. Land, F. M. Walker.

Deceased Ministers and Deacons—J. P. Lee, G. M. Lyles, W. Asheraft.

Publications—S. Hildreth, J. A. Mitchell, U. E. Allen.

On motion, adopted and amended the same order of business as last session.

The Committee on Preaching reported, adopted:

Prayer-meeting to-morrow at 10 o'clock A. M., conducted by Elder J. M. Land; the Annual Missionary Sermon, according to appointment, by Elder J. P. Lee, at 11 o'clock; and at 12 M. preaching by Elder R. A. Massey. Preaching on to-morrow night by Elder W. C. Smith.

On motion, adjourned until Monday morning 9 o'clock. Prayer by Elder J. P. Lee.

THE LORD'S DAY.

The exercises of this day were conducted according to previous appointment, with the addition that Elder W. Asheraft preached in the church at 10 o'clock A. M., while Elder J. P. Lee preached at the arbor. The necessity for this arrangement was caused by the unusually large attendance. Marked attention prevailed, while the Word was preached in earnestness and zeal. Collected for Missions $13 65.

MONDAY, 9 O'CLOCK, A. M.

The Association convened. Prayer by Elder I. Hollingsworth.

1. Minutes of Saturday read and approved.
2. Constitution and Rules of Decorum read.
3. Roll called and absentees marked.
4. Circular Letter read; on motion, adopted and ordered to be printed with the minutes.
5. Committee on Missions reported, adopted:

MISSIONS.

We recognize that the great commission, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature," is still imperative on us peculiarly as a christian people, and we trust that we appreciate the obligation resting on us to employ all the instrumentalities ordained of God for the furtherance of the great work of evangelizing and christianizing the heathen world. The providences of God among the nations within the past ten years, have opened a wide door of entrance to heathen territory, and to the heathen heart, bidding us "enter in and possess the land," and we shall be shamefully derelict in christian activity and zeal, if we fail to avail ourselves of the providences of God in this respect.

We would suggest to the consideration of our people, under our peculiar financial circumstances, the absolute necessity of retrenchment in matters of mere luxury, and the consecration of our substance even in our poverty, to the demand God has laid upon us. We also suggest to you the propriety of appointing a Missionary in the bounds of the Association for next associational year. Respectfully submitted, J. H. CURRY, Chm.

6. Report of Committee on Education, adopted:

EDUCATION.

We need not here discuss the advantages derived from a good education. No one can or will deny its necessity. As parents we acknowledge the obligations we are under to educate our children. Hence we should use all the means in our power to sustain and patronize our State Institutions of learning. For our sons, we recommend our own Howard College, and for our daughters, we have the Judson and the Alabama Central Female College, as eminently worthy of our confidence and patronage.

Repectfully submitted, J. A. MITCHELL, Chm.

7. Report of Committee on Correspondence, adopted.

8. Committee on Documents reported, adopted:

Letters have been received from all the churches except Providence, Oak Ridge, Pickensville and New Arbor Spring. Some of the churches report gracious revivals and many additions, while others report a cold and barren state. We notice the death of Elder A. M. SMITH of New Hope. Also the death of Deacon DENNIS SPRINGER of Mt. Pleasant, and Deacon I. M. FOSTER of Mineral Spring church, of which due notice will be taken by the Committee on Deceased Ministers and Deacons. We also notice that Beulah church has licensed brother J. G. Thornton to preach the Gospel of Christ. Our churches are all supplied with pastors.

The Carrollton Church requests a change in the time of holding the annual sessions of this body to Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in September.

We regret to report that but few of the churches have Sabbath Schools

We recommend to your consideration the request of Forest Church, in regard to the contemplated departure of Elder Wm. Ashcraft, and suggest that a committee of three be appointed to draft resolutions expressive of our love and confidence of said brother. Respectfully submitted,

W. P. PEDEN, Chm.

Committee appointed in accordance with above request:—J. H. Curry, J. H. Stinson and S. Hildreth.

9. Report of Committee on Finance, adopted:

Received from the churches for Minutes					$54,40
"	"	"	"	Association	28,35
"	"	"	"	Home Missions	10,45
"	"	"	"	Indian Missions	4,00
"	"	"	"	Foreign Missions	10,60
"	"	Second District for Missions			3,95
"	"	Third District for Missions			11,00
"	"	Carrollton Sabbath School for Missions			13,85
Collected on Sabbath for Missions					13,65
					$150.25

J. J. LEE, Chm.

10. Committee on Nominations reported, adopted:

Next Introductory Sermon by bro. H. B. Chappelle: alternate, Elder J. H. Curry. Annual Missionary Sermon by Elder R. A. Massey; alternate, Elder J. C. Foster. Elder R. A. Massey write the next Circular Letter, on the 2nd Article of Faith—We believe that the Scriptures, comprising the Old and New Testaments, are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice. J. H. STINSON, Chm.

11. Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools:

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."—Deu. 6:

4—7. If Israel was thus commanded to teach their children, even so are we. To love the Lord our God is as much our duty as it was Israel's. Not a jot or tittle has been abrogated. Christ came not to destroy the law, but to fulfill. The injunction to "train up a child in the way he should go," demands our prayerful consideration. The Sabbath School was never designed to take the place, or to lessen the responsibility of parental teaching, but it does and will continue to be a powerful auxiliary to parents who realize their responsibility of thus teaching their children. The impressions made in childhood are more indelibly fixed, than at any subsequent period of life. Neglect to teach a child both by precept and example the truths of the Gospel, and soon we see it eagerly imbibing the ways of sin. Step by step, the child moves on with increased velocity to ruin, and, at last, to eternal misery.

Can we, as parents, calmly contemplate our responsibility and give no aid or assistance to the Sabbath School? The interest in Sabbath Schools is, we rejoice to know, increasing in our Association; but much remains still to be done, for until every church in our bounds has a permanent school, the work will not be fully consummated. Let us, brethren, "be doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

H. B. CHAPPELLE, Chm.

12. Report of Committee on Deceased Ministers and Deacons:

Since our last meeting, it has pleased our Heavenly Father to remove from our midst our beloved brother, Elder A. M. SMITH. He was born in Sumter county, Ala., June 1841, and joined the Baptist church in North Port when quite young. About four years ago he was licensed by the New Hope church, and was soon afterwards ordained to the full work of the ministry. His ministerial life was short; yet, during this time, he zealously devoted his energies to the service of God. Falling as he did in the midst of his usefulness, we could but say, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Therefore,

Resolved, 1st. That we as an Association, humbly submit to this great affliction sent upon us by our Heavenly Father, knowing that "He hath done all things well."

Resolved, 2d. That we deeply sympathize with the Church of which our brother was a member, and especially with his bereaved family.

Since our last meeting it has pleased God to remove Deacon DENNIS SPRINGER of Mt. Pleasant church. He was ordained a Deacon in the year 1865, and died exercising the full functions of his office.

Deacon I. M. FOSTER, of Mineral Spring church, has also been called to the Christian's home. He was born in Union county, South Carolina, and made a profession of religion when young, and united with the Baptist Church in said county. About twenty-five years ago, he, with his family, removed to Alabama, and settled in Pickens county, joining Hebron church by letter. A few years afterwards he removed his membership to Mineral Spring church, where he was ordained Deacon, which office he filled in honor to God and to himself. Brother Foster was a humble and devoted Christian, a kind husband, and affectionate father. After a long and protracted sickness, he departed this life, December 22d, 1876, with full assurance of his acceptance with God.

J. P. LEE, Chm.

13. Reports from District Meetings were read, and adopted:

FIRST DISTRICT—The next meeting of this District is to be held with Bethlehem Church, Friday before the 3rd Sabbath in July, 1878. Introductory Sermon by Elder J. A. Mitchell; Elder J. S. Wooten, alternate. Missionary Sermon, Elder G. M. Lyles. *Queries for discussion*: 1. Who did Cain marry? 2. Should a church tolerate a member who plays cards for amusement, and dances? 3. Who is the lawful administrator of church ordinances, according to the Scriptures? *Essay read:* The effect of fervent prayer. Elder J. S. Wooten. Visiting brethren: M. G. Lofton, W. P. Owings, F. M. Walker, N. Cobb, Jno. H. Curry, J. T. Hancock, D. Duncan, Wm. G. Robertson.

Second District—Next annual meeting will be held with South Carolina church, Friday before the 4th Sabbath in July, 1878. Introductory Sermon by brother H. B. Chappelle; alternate, Elder J. P. Lee. Missionary Sermon by Elder G. M. Lyles; alternate, Elder J. H. Curry. *Query for discussion:* Has the promise in Gen. 3: 15 been fulfilled? If so, when, and in what way? *Essay read:* What does Christ teach in Matt. 5: 39—J. B. Kilpatrick. Visiting brethren, S. Hildreth, R. B. Wilkins, J. A. Mitchell, W. G. Robertson, C. T. Fort, J. J. Lee, R. A. Massey, J. D. Stapp, W. H. Teer.

Third District—Next meeting will be held with Mount Zion church on Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in August, 1878. Introductory Sermon by Elder J. H. Curry; alternate, Elder G. M. Lyles. Missionary Sermon by Elder J. P. Lee; alternate, Elder S. Hildreth. *Queries for discussion:* 1. What law governed mankind after the fall and prior to the giving of the law to Moses? Opened by M. G. Lofton. 2. Should a member be retained in the church who has the means, and refuses to pay his just debts? Opened by C. Richey. 3. Should a member be retained in the church who has the means and refuses to pay his pastor. Opened by J. D. Stapp. *Essays:* 1. What is the design of church communion?—L. M. Stone. 2. Can the heathen be saved without the Gospel?—W. G. Robertson. Visiting brethren, J. H. Curry, J. C. Foster, I. Teer, H. B. Chappelle, J. T. Hancock, J. H. Jordan.

Fourth District—Next annual meeting will be held with Zion church, Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in August, 1878. Introductory Sermon by Elder J. C. Foster; alternate, brother J. G. Thornton. Missionary Sermon by Elder M. P. Smith. The following queries were discussed and answered at last meeting: 1. In the trial of church members, should we receive only the evidence of members of Baptist churches? Answer—It sometimes becomes necessary in seeking after truth, in the investigation of charges against members, to go outside of Baptist churches. This course we recommend to the churches when necessary. 2. What are the official duties of a Deacon, and what are the duties of church members in matters of church discipline? Ans.—The official duties of a Deacon are the temporal interest of the church, and it is the duty of every individual member to see that the discipline is properly enforced. *Queries for discussion:* 1. What are the peculiarities of Baptist faith and practice? Opened by J. C. Foster and J. M. Smith. 2. Does the Word of God require that each church member shall contribute to the spreading of the Gospel? Opened by J. G. Thornton and J. W. Edwards. *Essay:* What are the duties of church members to their pastor?—J. G. Thornton. Visiting brethren, S. Hildreth, J. H. Curry, H. B. Chappelle, E. Easterling, M. G. Lofton, L. P. Baker.

14. Appointed delegates to the Baptist State Convention, Talladega, Ala., Thursday before the 3rd Sabbath in July, 1878: R. A. Massey, J. C. Foster, J. T. Hancock, R. H. Foster, J. G. Thornton, J. J. Taylor, C. Upchurch, M. L. Stansel, L. M. Stone, W. G. Robertson.

15. Returned correspondence to other Associations:

To the Tuskaloosa—To convene with the ———— Church, on Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath in September, 1878—J. C. Foster, J. G. Thornton, R. H. Foster, W. G. Comerford, J. H. Pate, W. J. Beaty.

To the Columbus—To convene with the Bethesda Church, 4 miles N. W. of Crawfordville, Miss., Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in Sept. 1878—J. H. Stinson, J. H. Curry, J. A. Burgin, H. B. Chappelle, J. T. Hancock, W. M. McCollough, J. P. Barnett, W. P. Peden, J. C. Foster.

16. Appointed the next session of the Association to be held with the Carrollton Baptist Church, Pickens county, Ala., commencing on Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in September, 1878.

On motion, adjourned until 2 o'clock, P. M. Prayer by Elder W. H. Robertson.

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2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder J. A. Mitchell.

17. Report of Committee, relative to the removal of Elder Wm. Ashcraft, adopted:

Whereas, the Rev. WILLIAM ASHCRAFT, having resigned the pastoral care of his churches with the view of moving to Texas, and whereas, said Brother came to this Association in 1859, a young minister, a graduate of the Howard College, and after operating in the bounds of said Association in the capacity of pastor and missionary for eighteen years, now feels called upon to leave us, and whereas our beloved Brother, by heeding the injunction of Paul to Timothy, has wrought out for himself an enviable reputation all over our State as an able, logical, and consistent Baptist minister; as one whose record in this State as a minister, christian gentleman and citizen is and ever has been without reproach; and whereas, by virtue of the foregoing, we feel warranted in presenting the following resolutions, therefore be it *Resolved*, by this Association in an associational capacity assembled: 1. We recognize Bro. Ashcraft as a sound Baptist, a thorough scholar, a representative man of our denomination, and an humble Christian. 2. That we most heartily commend our Brother, WM. ASHCRAFT, to the Christian confidence and esteem of the churches and brethren in Texas, as a pious, zealous and able defender of the Master's cause; and we shall watch with prayerful solicitude for his usefulness and success, and pray the Lord of the harvest to continue to give him "sheaves for his hire," and bless other communities with the fruits of his labors.

Resolved, That a copy of these preambles and resolutions be sent to the *Alabama Baptist* and the *Texas Baptist Herald*, with a request that they publish the same. JOHN H. CURRY, Chm.,

18. Committee on Publications reported, amended and adopted:

Your committee recommend the *Alabama Baptist*, published at Marion, Ala., *Kind Words*, and the *Foreign Mission Journal*, published by the Southern Baptist Convention. Also, *The Baptist*, edited by Elder J. R. Graves at Memphis, Tenn. Respectfully submitted,

S. HILDRETH, Chm.

19. *Miscellaneous Business.*—1. The committee appointed by the Association at the last session to answer the query sent up by New Hope church, reported the following answer: "It is not." And, on motion, the answer was adopted.

2. On motion, the following resolutions were adopted: Resolved, 1st. That we appoint an Executive Committee, with W. G. Robertson as chairman, to take in charge all Missionary operations in the bounds of this Association.

Resolved, 2nd. That each Pastor present this subject to their

respective congregations, take up a collection for the purpose, and pay over all funds to said committee.

Brethren J. J. Lee, C. Richey, J. T. Hancock, J. H. Stinson, were appointed in accordance to above resolutions.

3. On motion, ordered that the collection on Sabbath be equally divided between the Home and Foreign Missions.

4. Ordered, that the Clerk superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes, pay over the funds to their respective Boards, and to retain out of Association fund $25 for his services.

5. Ordered that balance of Association fund be added to Minute fund if necessary, for the printing of the Minutes.

6. Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be tendered to the members of the Big Creek Church and community, for the kindness and hospitality extended to the delegates and visitors during its session.

7. Ordered, That we print a synopsis of the proceedings of the Sabbath School Convention with our Minutes.

On motion, adjourned. Appropriate and feeling remarks were made by the Moderator. The delegates joined in singing a hymn, and giving each other the parting hand, after which prayer was offered by Elder J. H. Curry.

H. B. CHAPPELLE, Clerk. J. C. FOSTER, Moderator.

NOTE—Preaching at the arbor during the session of the Association, by Elder W. H. Robertson and Bro. J. G. Thornton.

H. B. CHAPPELLE, in account with the Union Baptist Association.

DR.

To cash received from Committee on Finance,	$150,25	
" " " Fellowship church for Minutes	1,00	
" " " Oak Grove ch. for Min. $2, Ass'n $1,	3,00	
" " " Since Association for Home Mission,	1,50	
" " " 2nd District last year, $7.35, int. 60 c.	7,95	
" unappropriated last year	2,95	
		$166.65

CR.

By cash paid Foreign Mission Board	$35,70	
" " Home and Indian Mission Board	41,25	
" " printing Minutes	61,75	
" " retained for services as Clerk	25,00	
By cash on hand unappropriated	2,95	
		$166.65

Union Baptist Association.

	CHURCHES.	DELEGATES. Absentees marked with a star, †	STATISTICS. Baptized	Received by Letter	Dismissed by Letter	Restored	Excluded	Deceased	White Males	White Females	Total White Members	Colored Members	AGGREGATE	Date of Constitution	CONTRIBUTIONS. Minutes	Association	Missions	Aggregate Amount	Monthly Meetings	PASTORS.	CHURCH CLERKS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.
First Dis.	Bethlehem	J. C. Stokes† A. P. Woolbright, J. Doughty†	4	7			1	1	9	25	34		34	1835	1,00	1,00		2,00	4	J, S. Wooten,	H Bradley, Coalfire, Ala.
	Liberty	Eld.R.B.Wilkins, J.K.Robinson, J.W.Harris,†	7		4	2	1		22	47	69		68	1834	2,50	1,00		3,00	4	J.A. Mitchel,	J.W.Harris, Reform, Ala.
	Mt. Pleasant	Eld J A Mitchel, W J Beaty, C. Hollingsworth,†	1	6	5			2	20	50	70		70	1843	2,90	1,00		2,90	1	J.A. Mitchel,	J. M. Parker, Gordo, Ala.
	Fellowship	P H Howard,† Benj. Pearson,† A P Hodo,†		1					7	13	20		20	1833	1,00			1,00	1	S. Hildreth,	P.H.Howard, Reform, "
	Corinth	W. G. Comeford, J. N. Parker, J. A. Mitchel,†					8	1	16	32	48	3	51	1864	1,50	,50		2,00	4	S. Hildreth,	J.A.Mitchel, Sipsy T'pike
	Spring Hill, S.	Eld J S Wooton† Dan'l McNeese, J R Goodman†	3		2	3	2	1	30	38	68		68	1836	1,50	,50		2,00	2	J. S. Wooten,	J. D. Walker, Salado, Ala
	Pleasant Grove	Wm. McCullough, O F McAdams† J H Cooper,†	3		5	1			17	70	87		87		1,50	,50		2,00	4	J. S. Wooten,	Wm. Vail, Luxapahila Ala
	Providence	A. Richardson,† J B Kilpatrick,† W J Duncan,												1822	1,50	1,00		2,50			
	N. Arbor Sp'ng	Not Represented,												1872							
Second Dis.	SouthCarolina	J. M. Allen,† J. T. Hancock, F. P. Adams,†			7		2		9	17	26		26	1824	1,50	,50		2,00	4	J. P. Lee,	F P.Adams Stafford Mills
	Mineral Spring	Eld.G.M.Lyles. W.J.Coward J.J.Funderburk†		3			2	1	17	50	67		67	1855	2,00	1,00		3,00	1	G. M. Lyles,	E J Datlin, Carollton, Ala.
	Oak Ridge	Eld. J. P. Lee, J. A. Burgin, H. L. Williams,†												1838	2,00	1,00		3,00		J. P. Lee,	
	Spring Hill, P.	Eld. J. M. Land, J. P. Gates, J. H. Stinson,	1		2	1		2	19	16	26	1	27		1,00	1,00		2,00	4	G.M. Lyles,	J H Stinson, Pick'ville,
	Hebron	Eld. J. H. Curry. B. E. Whitaker, J. F. Fason,	2	2			1	1	15	42	57	3	60	1841	2,00	1,00		3,00	4	J. H. Curry,	J. A. Pearson, Carrollton,
	Big Creek	H B Chappelle, U. E. Allen, I. M. Noland,	1	1	1	1			20	64	84	1	85	1829	3,00	1,00		4,00	2	G.M.Lyles,	T H Haynie, "
	Cross Roads	J. H. Taylor, W. D. Allen, T. J. Butler†	8		1				6	22	27		27	1850	1,50	,50		2,00	1	WH Robertson	W. B. West, "
	Pickensville	J. R. Long,† J. J. Lee, J. J. Ball,†												1847	2,00	1,00		3,00	1	J. H. Curry,	
Third Dis.	Carrollton	W.P.Owings,† A. J. Allen. W G Robertson,†			4		2	15	49	55	8		63	1846	2,50	2,00		54,50	4	J. H. Curry,	L M Stone, Carrollton, Ala
	Ebenezer	Eld.S.Hildreth, E. Easterling,† J.L.Stuckey,†	2	1	15	1			10	20	30		80	1833	2,00	,50		2,50	3	G.M. Lyles,	C. W Free, "
	Unity	P. W. Scott,† W. P. Peden, M. G. Loftin,†		1	4			2	42	68	110		110	1829	3,00	2,00	5,35	10,35	1	W. Ashcraft,	J W Hanson, Olney, Ala.
	Enon	F. H. Ball, C. Richie, C. T. Fort,	2		1				16	32	48		48	1823	2,50	2,50	12,15	17,50	3	J. H. Curry,	J. D. Stapp, Garden. "
	Mount Zion	W. M. Billings, F. P. Waller,† R. H Jennings,	1	4	1			1	27	35	62		62	1843	2,00	1,15		3,15	2	J. H. Curry,	L. P. Parker, Sipsy Mills,
	Prairie	Eld. R A Massey, J J Taylor, C Upchurch,	19	18					18	19	37		37	1876	2,00	,50		2,50	4	R. A. Massey,	J J.Taylor, Pl'snt Ridge,
	Forest	Eld. Wm. Ashcraft, I. Teer, J. P. Barnett,	7	7	8	1		3	22	44	66	13	79	1835	3,00	1,00	7,55	11,55	3	W. Ashcraft,	J P Barnet PleasantGrove
	Shiloh	J. Garner,† C. C. Garner,† A. P Smith,†	1		6		1		6	14	20	3	23	1857					1	J. L. Ray,	C. C. Garner, " "
	chalcedony	Eld. J H M Anders,† G T Hulsy,† F M Walker,			4		4		33	30	63		63	1875	2,00	,25		2,25	3	J H M Anders,	W. Marcum, Romulous,
	Beulah	Eld. M. P. Smith,† E H Lamb,† J G Thornton,	3					1	28	66	94		94	1822	2,00	1,50		3,50	1	M. P. Smith,	E H Lamb, Union Ala.
	Bethel	G. A. Stewart,† A. C. Robertson, Eld J L Ray,†	6	4	1	3	1	3	29	52	81		81	1834	1,50	1,00		2,50	2	M. P. Smith,	E W Henderson, Hickman
Fourth Dis.	New Hope	J M Smith, J. H. Robertson,† John Patrich,†		4	2	1	1	1	24	42	66		66	1839	2,00	2,00		4,00	4	J. C. Foster,	J.W. Robertson, Romulus,
	Zion	J. H. Pate, N. Hisaw,† W. H. Jones	1		1		1	2	15	28	43	1	44	1838	2,00	,50		2,50	2	J. A. Mitchel,	N Highsaw, SipsyTurnpik
	Grant's Creek	Eld. J. C. Foster, R.H.Foster,† P H Wilkerson†	2	1	6	2	2	1	80	73	103	5	108	1828	3,00	1,00		5,00	1	J. C. Foster,	A.F. Prince, Foster's, Ala
			72	60	80	16	28	24	512	1049	1561	38	1599	....	57,40	29,40	25,05	111,85			

SABBATH SCHOOLS:—Corinth, Spring Hill, Pickensville, Carrollton, Unity, Forest, Beulah, Grant's Creek and Prairie.

CIRCULAR LETTER;

WRITTEN BY ELDER J. H. CURRY.

RESURRECTION.

The resurrection of the dead, is one of the most interesting themes that can engage the thoughts of man. If it is viewed by hope, it is calculated to produce the most ecstatic joy. If the soul has anchored in Christ, no doctrine can give sweeter solace to the mind, than the prospect of rising from the ruins of mortality. The child of God turns with delight from the corruption and loathsomeness of the grave, to the day when "death shall be swallowed up in victory; when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and when this mortal shall have put on immortality." But if viewed by fear, it will give the most pungent pain.

To those who are ignorant of God and his righteousness, whose consciences are "swift witnesses" against them as evil doers, how awful and terrible is the view of the resurrection of the dead: "It is a fearful looking for of judgment." They must arise from the dead to suffer the punishment due the transgressor. Their wickedness which, perhaps, they have hid from man will confront them in all their guilt; they will not be able to hide themselves, or their wickedness from the omniscient eye of Him who shall judge the living and the dead. "Now that the dead are raised, even Moses shewed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him."—Luke 20: 37, 38. This is a quotation from the 3d chapter of Exodus. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, had been dead for more than two hundred years, when Moses uttered this; yet God declares himself, as still being their God. They must, therefore, be still living somewhere; for "God is not the God of the dead;" it is absurd to say that God rules over those who are extinct, or annihilated; he is the God only of those who have an existence. "Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."—John 5: 28, 29. In the resurrection, the righteous shall be raised up to the full security and enjoyment of everlasting life. It is called the resurrection of life, because there shall be no more death. See Rev. 21: 4. Those who have done evil, shall be raised up to be condemned or damned. This is the object in raising them up. It is said by Matthew in the 25th chapter 46th verse, "These shall go away into everlasting punishment." Those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, "some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."—Dan. 13: 2. "I know that my Redemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me."—Job 19: 25–27. "Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead."—Isa. 26: 19. The doctrine of the resurrection from the dead forces itself upon our consideration by a strong desire to live again. The deep consciousness exists with all, even in those minds upon which the light of revelation has never shone, and is perpetually developing itself, that a period will arrive in the uncertain future, far beyond this vale of tears, "when every one must give an account for the deeds done in the body." It dwells in every bosom. It follows the mind like a shadow in all the actions of life. We cling to the hope of the resurrection as we do to life itself. Give us the resurrection, and the disappointments and trials of this life are no longer insufferable. Assured that we shall again, beyond this "tear bathed world," join those we love, we resign them with some cheerfulness. How should we part with our relations and friends? How could we bury our children, our parents, our brothers, and our sisters? How could we utter beside the open grave, as those who are so dear to our hearts, are laid in the silent tomb, one long farewell; while the consciousness rushes upon us that we part forever, that there "is no resurrection, neither angel nor spirit;" the thought alone

freezes our hearts. But God has illustrated this doctrine by clear and unmistakable facts. For "if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not."—I. Cor. 15: 14, 15. Hence, if there is no resurrection from the dead, Christ is an impostor. And if Christ hath not been raised, the gospel being stripped of the evidence which it derives from the resurrection of Jesus, the preaching of Paul is absolutely false, and the faith of the Corinthians, in fact of all Christians is likewise false, "For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised." "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."—I. Cor. 15: 16, 19. For, by preaching his resurrection, we expose ourselves to every possible present evil, and it there be no resurrection of the dead, there can be no future state in which we may realize any happiness. But, "since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead."—Ver. 21. By Adam sin and death entered the world; by him, "sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."—Ro. 5: 12. Our connection with Adam brought us death, and with Christ brought us life—a resurrection from the dead. "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."—Phil. 3: 21. "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him." "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first." "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." Thess. 4: 14—17. And this, too, "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trump shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."—I. Cor. 15: 52. The resurrection will take place so soon as the trumpet begins to sound. Then the dead, whether righteous or unrighteous, are to be raised up, and the living are to be changed at the same time. "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye." The thought is wonderful in the extreme,—countless millions of decayed bodies all rising to life, arising from that narrow, dark and loathsome bed, to be invested with glorious immortal bodies. These vile bodies will be changed—made glorious and divine. "It is raised a spiritual body." It is sown in wickedness; it is raised in power.

> "The trump shall sound; the gates of death
> Shall make his children way;
> From the cold tomb the slumberers spring,
> And shine in endless day."

The resurrection is preserved in a perpetual symbol. Every time an individual dead to sin, is baptized, his baptism testifies this body, though dead and buried, shall arise from the ruins of mortality.

"Baptism is a monumental witness of the resurrection." "Else what shall they do who are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not?" The same as to say, why symbolize the resurrection of the dead, in your baptism if the dead rise not? In our baptism we anticipate—we commemorate the resurrection. To deny our resurrection, is to deny the resurrection of our Saviour.

Resurrection is a revival from the dead. There is a resurrection, which consists in reviving for a time, to die again. Such was the resurrection of Lazarus. There is also a general resurrection which will be followed by an immortality of happiness or of misery. This resurrection will completely vanquish the enemies of Christ; that event will destroy death, and him who had the power of death. Then shall the saints be delivered from the bars of the tomb, and rise into immortal health and beauty; they shall be subject to sin, death and corruption no more. They shall be "gathered to the right hand of God," There will be no charge heard to their prejudice at the resurrection, nor any condemnation. They shall be declared righteous, yea, as righteous as if they had never sinned. They are declared righteous through the perfect obedience of Christ, even unto death. But the wicked will be driven away in his wickedness. The sinner is resurrected to damnation.

SYNOPSIS

OF THE

NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

OF THE

UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

The Ninth Annual Session of the Sunday School Convention was held with the Baptist Church at Carrollton embracing Friday and Saturday before the 5th Sabbath in July, 1877.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder J. H. Curry; subject, Theological Schools.

The Convention was then called to order by the President, Eld. W. Ashcraft. W. G. Robertson was appointed Secretary, *pro tem.*

After reading the letters and enrolling names of delegates the Convention was organized by re-electing Elder William Ashcraft, President, and Wm. G. Robertson, Secretary and Treasurer.

Five Sabbath Schools and seven Churches were represented by twenty-two delegates.

The letters showed that there was not as much interest manifested as should be.

The Committee on Documents made report and offered a resolution to this effect: In view of the importance of the Sabbath School work and the indifference of the churches on the subject, therefore,

Be it resolved, That this Convention urge upon the Pastors of the various churches in our bounds to bring this question prominently before their congregations and to do all they can to organize a Sabbath School in every church and neighborhood in the bounds of the Convention.

The Committee on best Sabbath School Literature, recommended "Kind Words," and lessons published therein, at Macon, Ga., under the auspices of the Southern Baptist Convention, for the use of scholars, and the "Baptist Teacher," at Philadelphia, Pa., for the use of teachers; but, above all, the Bible should be the text book, the corner-stone of every Sabbath School.

The Committee on Queries and Essays submitted the following queries and essays for discussion at the next session of the body:

Query, 1. Should other than professing Christians be teachers in Sabbath Schools? Affirmative, M. G. Lofton; negative, J. H. Stinson.

2. Do Sabbath Schools interfere with the work of the church? Affirmative, U. E. Allen; negative, Ben. E. Whitaker.

3. Ought, or not, the church to pay the incidental expenses of the Sabbath School, and allow the school to use its collections for benevolent and missionary purposes? Affirmative, H. B. Chappelle; negative, John J. Lee.

Essay, 1. What are the best means of promoting a more general interest in Sabbath School work? By W. S. Coleman.

2. The evils of popular amusements. By Elder Geo. M. Lyles.

Pending the discussion of the report of the Finance Committee, the following resolution was unanimously adopted, to-wit:

Resolved, That the Convention raise the sum of $25.00 for the purpose of supplying destitute Sabbath Schools with *Kind Words*, Sabbath School paper, and Bibles and Testaments; and that the Treasurer is instructed and authorized, on notice from the Superintendent of any Baptist Sabbath School in our bounds, that his church has organized a school and are ready for work, but are not able to buy papers, lessons and Bibles, to use so much of said fund as will be necessary to supply them; and if a school or church raises a portion, to supplement a sufficient amount from any funds on hand.

The Convention, in a few minutes, raised $27. This was done in view of the importance of the work and to stimulate the churches to action. A deep interest was exhibited by the delegates and visitors in the work, and the absorbing question was how to best promote the good work. It is to be regretted that every church was not represented, that through their delegates they might have partaken of the enthusiasm which prevailed throughout the entire session.

The next session (10th) will be held with the church at Mineral Spring, 11 miles north of Carrollton, commencing Friday before the 1st Sabbath in August, 1878, at which time and place we hope every church will be represented, reporting a school in successful operation.

The next Introductory Sermon will be preached by Elder S. Hildreth; alternate, Elder J. S. Wooten. Missionary Sermon by Eld. J. H. Curry; alternate, J. A. Mitchell.

Thus begins, we trust, a brighter day for Sabbath Schools.

W. G. Robertson, Sec'y. W. Ashcraft, President.

NAMES OF BAPTIST MINISTERS

IN THIS ASSOCIATION, WITH THEIR POST OFFICES.

R. B. Wilkins	Reform, Pickens County, Ala.
Elijah Howell	Millport, Lamar " "
I. Hollingsworth	Carrollton, Pickens " "
S. Hildreth	" " " "
D. Duncan	" " " "
J. H. Curry	" " " "
H. B. Chappelle*	" " " "
G. M. Lyles	Providence, " " "
J. S. Wooten	" " " "
H. Bradley*	" " " "
William Coward*	" " " "
A. M. Hanks	Columbus, Lowndes Co., Miss.
J. M. Land	Pickensville, Pickens Co., Ala.
J. P. Lee	" " " "
A. A. Ball*	" " " "
Jacob Parker	Pleasant Grove " " "
M. P. Smith	Union, Greene County, "
R. A. Massey	Pleasant Ridge, Greene Co., "
J. A. Mitchell	Sipsey Turnpike, Tuskaloosa "
J. H. M. Anders	Romulus, Tuskaloosa Co., "
T. G. Thornton*	" " " "
J. C. Foster	Sylvan, " " "
J. L. Ray	Hickman, " " "

Ordained Ministers.	18
Licentiates.*	5